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Washington Preservation Initiative
Advisory Group Minutes
August 20, 2004, Conference Call

Present: Gary Menges, UW Libraries, Chair
Gudrun Aurand, WSU
Lee Dirks, Microsoft
Eric Palo, Renton Technical College
Linda Pierce, Gonzaga University
Kathryn Hamilton Wang, WSL
Susan Barrett (WSL Project Manager)

Absent: Jill Bourne, Seattle Public Library

Basic Book Repair—August

Susan reported on the success of the August workshops. The evaluations gave rave reviews and requested lists of purchase options for the tools used. A solicitation has been offered for trainers for a September series, which should just about clear the standby lists, with two Westside classes and one Eastside, with 12 students each. Susan will ask the State Librarian to write to Bill Ptacek, Director of the King County Library System and also to the supervisor of Donald Vass of the KCLS Menderly, thanking them for hosting the August workshops. We hope to be able to re-use this site for the September workshops, and also return to the Eastern Washington Regional Archives at Cheney. Linda will undertake to provide Gonzaga weeded books for the Eastern Washington students to use for practice. The sessions will be Tuesday, Sept. 28 in Cheney and Thursday, Sept. 30 and Friday, Oct. 1, in Issaquah.

Grants

Grant reviewers will meet Aug. 31, to consider the compiled review data and forward a suggested list of recipients to the State Librarian and the Secretary of State. Applications for the “small grants” for the assessment survey have a deadline date of August 31.

A small sub-committee of Gary, Lee, Susan, and Jeff Martin will score and consider the vendors’ responses to the RFQQ for assessment surveyors. A set of further questions will be offered to each, to expand upon some of their answers.

Future Workshops

Jim Reilly will speak on Tuesday, Oct. 26 at the UW, OUGL # 220. Contract is well in progress. The room has no real size limit; registration will probably say 60 but could be expanded if necessary. Lee’s recommendation—“drop everything and go see him.” Workshop description can be found at

<http://www.secstate.wa.gov/library/libraries/training/trainingView.aspx?event=228&audience=lib> .

In light of the apparent demand for basic book repair, we have been asked if we might wish to sponsor, without charge, some presentations by a Kapco (paperback covers) vendor. In the following discussion, Gary felt that he had real reservations about such an activity and that we should be hesitant to link WPI's name to this. A listserv such as PreserveNW could always carry announcements of workshops arranged directly by the vendor, without our involvement. Eric said that his library deals with its book jobber for Kapco covers. Linda felt that it would be a direct promotion of one product, and Kathryn wondered that since there would be a question of endorsing a specific product, should the Ethics Board be involved for a review. General consensus was that this should not become a WPI activity.

Unspent Grant Monies

Whether such funds would become available, and whether there would be sufficient time to use them for other purposes are both uncertain questions. There had been earlier discussion of the purchase of environmental monitoring equipment, but where this would be stored and how it would be lent and returned might be too complicated after WPI's structure has evaporated.

Other suggestions—Kathryn--buy preservation pamphlets, perhaps from AIC (500 for \$35.) Eric—could a company bill us for a package deal on book repair tools, and then they would distribute? Use to buy books on book repair and other preservation subjects, to add to the State Library collection—Susan was to investigate this.

Preservation Needs Survey

Susan—we got our money's worth. Gudrun—that depends on what we do with it.

We should provide a paper copy to Jan Walsh, for Council packets, for Rand and Jeff, and possibly Sam Reed or Steve Excel (Assistant Secretary of State) or Trova Hutchins (Information Officer).

Discussions of findings:

Began with page 6, summaries and key findings.

Page 7, preservation information sources—Eric-do we want to duplicate what's already there (as in adding to our website?) Eric—Portals now has a good website; who would maintain ours later? UW website has a link to other web resources; WPI might be able to archive some things there such as the survey. Gudrun—thinks we could tell people where to go to look and to get started. Gary—the Pacific Northwest Preservation Management Institute will offer attendees some information relating to this. Linda—articles in Alki, etc; “bookmark this page”, do marketing for PreserveNW—suggest that they subscribe

even if they don't do this exclusively. People are afraid of it (the subject of preservation). We spoke of how PreserveNW could be marketed to libraries. Susan—WSL Update could do some small articles. Gudrun—"preservation" is an umbrella name.

Linda—people think of WSL in times of emergencies; gather a list of people and resources to have available. Eric—Portals has a contract with a freeze-drying firm; 3 Washington libraries also participate—Clark College, WSU Vancouver, and Fort Vancouver Regional Library. Cost is \$14 a pallet and \$200 a month to store wet books. There is also a firm in Forest Grove, OR or Rainier Cold Storage in Seattle. (Should we see about multiple locations and list them?)

Eric—lots of libraries want digitization.

Training

Gudrun—we could tell libraries where to buy . Susan—deadline for WLA pre-conferences for spring is very close; contact Mary Stillwell. Perhaps find an interest group to sponsor—maybe Collections or WALT. Linda—send information to interest groups; we know from survey that this (book repair) is popular. Gary mentioned that the NEDCC website offers some free online classes, such as Preservation 101.

Next Meeting

October 6, 2004, 1 pm—conference call.